

Montgomery County Universal Preschool Implementation Work Group  
September 4, 2008  
6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Lobby Auditorium  
Executive Office Building  
101 Monroe Street  
Rockville, MD 20850

## **MINUTES**

### *Members present:*

Kate Garvey  
Janine Bacquie  
Jane Seffel  
Julie Bader  
Lindsey Allard  
Khadra Ayorinde  
Mary Lang  
Brad Stewart  
Gene Counihan  
Traci McLemore  
Jackie Lichter  
Rolf Grafwallner  
Clara Floyd  
Jennifer Devine

### *Additional people present:*

Vivian Yao, Council Staff  
Shondell Foster, Council Staff  
Ben Stutz, Legislative Aide to Council Member Valerie Ervin  
Delegate Thomas Hucker, District 20

The meeting began at 6:15 p.m. Ms. Bacquie and Ms. Garvey greeted the group. Ben Stutz, Legislative Aide to Council Member Valerie Ervin, thanked the group, on behalf of Councilmember Valerie Ervin, for their commitment to early child care and education.

The Group members introduced themselves and told each other who they represent, what they bring to the table, and what they hope to take away from the sessions.

The Group reviewed the ground rules and the charge of the group.

Ms. Garvey stressed that these are open meetings and encouraged group members and the audience to use the feedback forms. The group should bring any information that may help the group make critical decisions in the coming months. There will be a resource

table for members to bring information to share information with the group and the community.

Rolf Grafwallner began his presentation of the State Task Force Report. The State Task Force met for 16 months and was briefed by 2 states that have already implemented universal preschool and other experts with knowledge of implementing universal preschool. The Task Force has established the long term goal of providing pre-kindergarten to all 4 year olds in the state of Maryland.

On page 43 of the Report, the Task Force has outlined 10 benchmarks (standards) for universal preschool. The Business Plan for implementing the Task Force Recommendations will be presented on September 23<sup>rd</sup> at 11:00. The Business Plan addresses how Universal Preschool will address the issues presented in the report as well as the costs associated with scaling up the preschool program.

There are currently six pilot sites in the state that are implementing Universal Preschool. In November or December, these sites will be open for observation and the Work Group is welcome to visit any of the pilot sites. These sites are funded with existing state funding sources.

#### Questions from the Group Members

- What are “existing funding sources”?

Federal and state funding sources that already exist. For example, the Hoyer Enhancement Programs, federal money for child care development fund that are earmarked for training, professional development or workforce development.

- What are most of the composition of the pilot sites?

Mostly 4 year olds and full day programs. **Mr. Grafwallner will provide a more detailed profile of the sites by the next meeting.** The sites are all over the state of Maryland.

- What are the teacher qualifications for the pilot sites?

Each program must speak to the ten benchmarks (standards) that are outlined in the Report and how they would address them.

- Has the Task Force been able to address the challenges of moving forward in education from an Associate’s Degree to a Bachelor’s Degree, specifically for family child care providers?

There is a gap in moving forward from an Associate’s Degree to a Bachelor’s Degree because most family child care providers are full time workers that can not attend full time (day) bachelor’s program. Early childhood education is very underdeveloped. Frostburg is examining ways to offer such a program in the evenings. Online courses or out of state courses may be the option. Conversations have started with Montgomery College and the University of Shady Grove for evening, weekend, part time courses in Early childhood degrees.

Compensation (p. 39 of the Preschool for All In Maryland Report)- This has been worked into the business plan so the funding that is offered to enhance the Preschool for all programs will cover the costs of the certified teachers. Certified teachers have an equal pay for the setting outside the public schools including benefits, access to the State retirement programs and other options, health insurance and other incentives to encourage teachers to stay in the field.

Programs have to be accredited to be eligible for funding. Preschool for All funds will cover the base fee and the enhancement fee (additional costs for certified teachers, curriculum, benefits, etc.)

**The group would like to see the proposals for the 6 pilot sites to examine how the logistics of how each site implements Preschool for All.**

Montgomery County Child Care Demographics 2008 presented by Ms. Garvey

Montgomery County Public Schools Preschool Programs Overview presented by Ms. Bacquie.

Montgomery County Child Care Capacity was presented by Ms. Garvey  
Child Care Capacity is tracked between 2 to 4 year olds.

School Readiness, Ready at 5 was presented by Janine Bacquie.

Questions:

- Is there data that indicates what or why a child is not ready to begin school? What other factors are present that may indicate a child is not ready to attend kindergarten?

Logistics-

Topic areas will be sent to the group members in the near future.

The group adjourned at 8:30 p.m.